LDST 307-01 Leadership in the International Context: An Introduction to Global Politics

Instructor: Prof. José L. Martí
Office: 102K Weinstein Hall
Email: jmarti@richmond.edu
Office hours: Tuesdays, 10am – noon

Class room: Jepson 107
Class meeting time: Monday and Wednesday, 12-1.15pm

Course Description
This course is an introduction to global politics and to some of the most important problems that human beings face at a global level in the 21st century. The course will introduce students to the knowledge of international relations, to the problems of global institutions and to the kind of threats that any state is meant to face in the current world. Two specific perspectives will be adopted across the course. One, that of leadership: in this class we will reflect about what it means to be a leader in the current increasingly globalized and digitalized world, and what kind of leadership is going to be successful at the global level. And second, the course will make emphasis in the American perspective of the global order. For that reason, most readings have been selected to give a distinctively American view over the topic.

Learning Method
The course will offer 24 class periods of one hour and 15 minutes each, plus an introductory one to give a general overview and a recap session at the end. Three of the 24 periods will be reserved to project presentations and discussions. The other 21 will be devoted to lectures, students’ presentations and readings discussions. The course will run as a seminar. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that students be well prepared for each period, basically by reading in advance the assigned reading.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. Unjustified unattendance to two class periods will be allowed. Absences in three or more periods will be penalized with a reduction of one or two full grades in the final grade of the course, depending on the number of absences.

Awarding of Credit
To be successful in this course, a student should expect to devote 10-14 hours each week, including class time and time spent on course-related activities.
http://registrar.richmond.edu/services/policies/academic-credit.html

Disability Accommodations
Students with a Disability Accommodation Notice should contact their instructors as early in the semester as possible to discuss arrangements for completing course assignments and exams.
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/disability-services/policies.html

Honor System
The Jepson School supports the provisions of the Honor System. The shortened version of the honor pledge is: “I pledge that I have neither received nor given unauthorized assistance during the completion of this work.”
http://studentdevelopment.richmond.edu/honor/
Religious Observance
Students should notify their instructors within the first two weeks of classes if they will need accommodations for religious observance.
http://registrar.richmond.edu/planning/religiousobs.html

Assignments and Evaluation
1. Participation in class discussions: Students are expected to read all the assigned readings in advance. Optional readings – in the list apart – are just recommended for deepening in specific topics, especially for those who want to focus on them for their group project. Participation in the class discussions will count for 10% of the final grade.
2. Discussion notes: Students will be required to pick up three of the readings assigned during the course and write three respective 3-pages discussion notes on them. These discussion notes must outline the paper’s main argument, highlighting its potential weaknesses, and expressing their judgment about them. Each discussion note will count for 5% of the final grade.
3. Oral presentation and discussion leadership: Students will be required to make an individual oral presentation of one of the readings assigned, summarizing its contents, making some criticisms and leading the class discussion. Individual preferences as to the reading assigned will be taken into account. And the reading can be one of the three for which the student has prepared a discussion note. This oral presentation will count for 15% of final grade.
4. Group project: Students will be required to form groups of three and work either on a project of reform of an existing international institution, or a proposal of creation of a new one specifically designed to deal with some global problem. Groups will be free to choose the institution they want to work about or the problem for which they want to propose a new one. A list of examples both of existing institutions and of current global problems for which we might need to create a new one will be provided during the first week. The aim of this assignment is to allow the students to display their proactive and leadership skills, while they deepen in the knowledge of the existing global order. The instructor will offer initial orientation and ongoing guidance to all groups. More detailed information will be provided during the first weeks. Each group will have to make a class presentation of its project, which will take place during the class periods reserved for that. Each project will be discussed by the class, and each group will receive feedback and constructive comments and suggestions. A final written version of each project will be due by 5pm, April 23rd. It will count for 35% of the final grade.
5. Final exam: There will be a final exam which will take place on April 28th. Students will have to respond to three questions out of a list of 10 topics that will be previously shared by the instructor. It will count for 25% of the final grade.

Required readings
A large number of readings will be assigned for most class periods. Most of them will be available on the course Blackboard page. The only ones that will not be provided are the five chapters of the following book:

Class 1 (Jan Mon 13th): Introduction and overview of the course
No required readings assigned.

Class 2 (Jan Wed 15th): The recent international order
• Slaughter, Anne-Marie, “International Relations, Principal Theories”, manuscript.
Jan Mon 20th: Martin Luther King’s Day

Class 3 (Jan Wed 22nd): United States in the new international order

Class 4 (Jan Mon 27th): Leadership and the information revolution

Class 5 (Jan Mon 29th): Social networks and the new digital era

Class 6 (Feb Mon 3rd): Getting complex and collaborative

Class 7 (Feb Wed 5th): The new global scenario

Class 8 (Feb Mon 10th): The home front

Class 9 (Feb Wed 12th): American national interests redefined

Class 10 (Feb Mon 17th): Global politics and global governance I

Class 11 (Feb Wed 19th): Global politics and global governance II

Class 12 (Feb Mon 24th): State sovereignty and globalization
• Strange, Susan, “The Declining Authority of States” and “Pinocchio’s Problem and Other Conclusions”, from The Retreat of the State, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996, chs. 1 and 13, pp. 3-15, and 183-199.

Class 13 (Feb Wed 26th): The Statist reaction

Class 14 (Mar Mon 3rd): National cultures and globalization

Class 15 (Mar Wed 5th): The legitimacy of global institutions

Mon 10th and Wed 12th: Spring Break

Class 16 (Mar Mon 17th): Existing global institutions: The WTO

Class 17 (Mar Wed 19th): Existing global institutions: The Security Council

Class 18 (Mar Mon 24th): Existing global institutions: International courts

Class 19 (Mar Wed 26th): Project presentations

Class 20 (Apr Mon 2nd): Project presentations

Class 21 (Apr Wed 4th): Project presentations

Class 22 (Apr Mon 7th): Going further: global justice
• Risse, Mathias, Global Political Philosophy, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012: ch. 4, pp. 88-118.

Class 23 (Apr Wed 9th): Going further: global constitutionalism
• Kumm, Matthias, "Constitutionalism and the Cosmopolitan State", manuscript.

Class 24 (Apr Mon 14th): Going further: global democracy

Class 25 (Apr Wed 16th): Going further: a global parliament and a global state?

Class 26 (Apr Mon 21st): Democratic statism versus democratic globalism

Class 27 (Apr Mon 23rd): recap session

Apr 28th – Final Exam